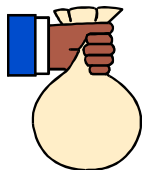




DEM Business Roundtable Newsletter

February 12, 2004

Targeted Brownfields Assessment Grants



The Targeted Brownfields Assessment program is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and administered by DEM. Brownfields sites are abandoned or other underutilized sites where expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence of contaminants. This program provides independent environmental site assessments of these sites. Determining the scope of the site contamination often eliminates the uncertainty of the property's redevelopment and reuse potential. Federal Brownfields legislation passed in 2002 provides funding for the program.

DEM received a Brownfields grant from EPA in October for \$861,029, with \$200,000 earmarked for additional targeted Brownfields assessments. DEM is encouraging municipalities, non-profit organizations (particularly those partnered with municipalities) and Indian tribes interested in the redevelopment of Brownfields to apply to DEM to participate in this program. The funding will be used by DEM to conduct an assessment of the property. Costs of the assessments average about \$50,000 and are fully paid for by DEM through EPA funding. The program is strictly for investigations only and does not fund any remediation, if required.

Applications are being accepted by DEM until February 16. Please contact [Kelly Owens](#) if you have any questions about the program.

Hazardous Waste Fee Update

Submitted by: M. Dennen



When the General Assembly passed the budget for fiscal year 2003, they included a requirement that DEM develop and implement a fee for hazardous waste generation. The Department worked with a stakeholder group, which was comprised of small and large quantity generators, industry associations, transporters, consultants, attorneys and environmental groups. One of the outcomes of the stakeholder group was for DEM to report on the collection of these fees on a yearly basis.

For fiscal year 2003, (July 2002 – June 30, 2003) the Department started to collect the Hazardous Waste Generation Fees beginning January 1, 2003. As of June 30, 2003, the total Hazardous Waste Generation Fees collected was \$249,935.66. This total represents fee collections for a period of five months. If collection of fees continues as observed during the first six months of the year then it could be anticipated this would result in a yearly collection \$827,532. This will be less than the goal of \$890,000 that the Department proposed.

For additional information on this topic call [Mark Dennen](#) at 222-2797 x7112 or visit the DEM website at <http://www.state.ri.us/DEM/pubs/index.htm> then click on Publications / Regulations and scroll down to Hazardous Waste.

DEM Regulatory Agenda Update

DEM is required to provide the public twice a year with its regulatory agenda. DEM has released its agenda of regulations that will be proposed in the next six months. In addition, the listing includes an update of regulations that were finalized since August of 2003. Some of the regulatory developments in the next six months include:

- Revisions to the Air Toxics Regulation
- Streamlining the permitting process for combined Heat & Power and Distributive Generation Sources
- Updating of the VOC definition in the Air regulations
- Control of VOC emissions from Commercial & Consumer Products / Architectural & Industrial Maintenance Coatings
- Groundwater Quality – Update of statewide classification maps
- Freshwater Wetlands Regulation revisions
- UST Inspection frequency requirements
- Used Oil Recycling
- Site Remediation Regulations – Arsenic standard
- Mercury Added Products.

Visit the DEM website for additional information about the regulatory agenda. (<http://www.state.ri.us/DEM/index.htm>) the click on Publication / Regulations and scroll down to Proposed Regulations / Amendments.

Draft Mercury Regulations Update

Submitted by: B. Migliore

The draft Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Rhode Island Mercury Education and Reduction Act are now available. A public hearing on the regulations will be held on

Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in the [Foundry Building](#), Room 300, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI.

The regulations were originally developed in 2002 with the assistance of a mercury advisory working group comprised of industry representatives, local environmental and health organizations, state officials and legislative policy analysts. These regulations reflect changes made by the General Assembly in 2003.

The [proposed regulations](#) provide guidelines for achieving significant reductions in environmental mercury. They address a wide range of topics such as manufacturer's notification regarding mercury content, restrictions on mercury-added novelties, and limitations on the use of elemental mercury.

The regulations address specific product bans and sale restrictions on mercury-added novelties that have been banned by law since last January. Products include certain toys, games, decorations, and apparel, but exempt those items that have a button cell battery as their only mercury component.

The proposed regulations, as well as 2003 changes to the Mercury Reduction and Education Act, can be found on DEM's website:

<http://www.state.ri.us/dem/>, by clicking on "Mercury" under "Topics". They can also be obtained by calling DEM's Office of Technical and Customer Assistance at 222-6800 weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For additional information on mercury regulations, contact Beverly Migliore at bmiglior1@dem.state.ri.us or 222-4700 extension 7503.

Household Mercury Device Collection

Submitted by: B. Migliore

In November, 2003, The RI Chemical Safe School Committee, led by the Department of Health and DEM, held thermometer exchanges at two sites in Providence and in Warwick. Approximately 1,000 people participated and sixty-four pounds of mercury were collected from mercury containing devices (mostly thermometers and thermostats). Participants were given a choice of digital, non-mercury thermometers or CVS cash coupons in return for disposal of their mercury-containing items.

This exchange was successful and there were many calls requesting other opportunities to dispose these products. Another event is being planned for the spring, tentatively in April. This group is also planning to sponsor a "milk run" pick-up event in the spring, where the Medial Waste disposal firm, Stericycle, has agreed to remove unwanted mercury at pre-arranged stops at facilities such as dental offices and schools.

For additional information on mercury regulations, contact Beverly Migliore at bmigliol1@dem.state.ri.us or 222-4700 extension 7503.

The Rhode Island Society of Environmental Professionals News

Submitted by: Pam Sherrill



The Rhode Island Society of Environmental Professionals

(RISEP) is pleased to announce the second annual **Environmental Career Night, on Monday, March 1** from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30

p.m. at the Airport Radisson, Post Road in Warwick, Rhode Island. Students with majors in environmental engineering, environmental science, environmental policy, community planning, law, geology, and related fields have been invited from Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts's colleges and universities. Light refreshments will be served.

RISEP scheduled this meeting to provide area college students with opportunities to hear environmental professionals describe their areas of expertise, their organization, and what they look for when they hire. Representatives from the following disciplines will speak: Environmental Laboratory, Legal, Industry, Regulatory, Consulting Engineering Construction / Hazardous Waste Remediation, Planning/NEPA, International Consulting, Water Quality Modeling, and Non-Profit Organizations. Please call Pam Sherrill, Pare Engineering, at (401) 334-4100, or Dan Lanier, Louis Berger Group, (401) 521-5980 for more information.

Additional upcoming RISEP events include a **holiday party on Thursday, February 12** at Spain's in Cranston and a **noon luncheon on Wednesday, March 10** at the Airport Radisson in Warwick. Featured topic at the luncheon includes discussion of mold remediation and associated indoor air quality issues. See www.risep.org for additional information or call Jim Fraher, vice-chair, at ESS Laboratory, (401) 461-7181

Greenhouse Gas Update

Submitted by T. Bisson



One aspect of the Greenhouse Gas project is a Government Lead-By-Example Initiative.

Stakeholders identified numerous ways that State government could not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also

save the State money. Three recommendations have or will be forwarded to Governor Carcieri for consideration as part of the State Fiscal Fitness project and efforts to reduce the projected budget deficit.

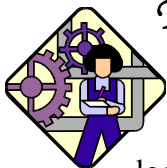
The first is an Executive Order for energy efficient renovations and new construction in state facilities and public schools. State taxpayers could save \$39 million in operating costs over the next 15 years if the measure is initiated.

The second is a recommendation requiring all future State purchases of office equipment, appliances, lighting and vehicles to meet the highest energy-efficiency standards available while meeting performance requirements. In addition, the state should evaluate broader environmental & economically preferable purchasing. Massachusetts uses this approach and has produced a net fiscal gain.

The third is an Executive Order to continue to improve the energy efficiency of state fleet vehicles. The Order addresses vehicle purchases as well as after market parts and maintenance. The purchase of fuel-efficient tires alone can reduce fuel consumption by as much as 3%.

The Dangers of Confined Spaces

Submitted by: J. Celenza



The recent tragic episode in an East Providence recycling plant illustrates the dangers of confined spaces. The space looks normal but may contain hidden or invisible (and deadly) dangers. As a result a worker may not know that the atmosphere may explode if they flick on

light, or that the air in the space is not fit to breathe.

That is why you need to know where confined spaces are in your facility, and recognize any hazards they can possess. Most of all that you need to stay out of such spaces unless properly equipped and trained and protected from the space's hazards. Examples of confined spaces are boilers, pits, pipelines, pumping station, trenches, shafts, caissons, utility vaults, storage tanks, septic tanks and underground storage tanks.

Confined spaces share these fundamental characteristics:

They are not designed for constant human occupancy.

They are usually designed to hold commercial products like chemicals, gases, grains or sand; or they are especially designed for certain equipment. People do not normally work in these spaces. Occasionally workers are sent into these spaces to perform maintenance, check product or equipment, or to clean the space.

The opening is restricted

It may be hard to get into the space, even harder to get out. Small openings may be the problem, or the shape of the space may taper and narrow or it may be cluttered with pipes and equipment. To get into the space, workers may need ladders or hoists. There might be equipment in the space that makes it hard to maneuver, and – if something goes wrong – to get out.

The atmosphere may be unpredictable

Confined spaces are trickier because the atmosphere may appear to be normal. But, something can be happening in the space to alter the atmosphere. The space suddenly has an atmosphere we can't breathe. Individuals may be overcome or confused and can't get themselves out of the space. A key to

working safety around such spaces is to know when not to enter them.

OSHA has a special rule governing confined spaces in general industry. The rule requires employers to determine where confined spaces are located, and to identify any hazards they contain.

OSHA considers certain confined spaces as particularly hazardous. These they call permit-required confined spaces. The space may contain a hazardous atmosphere or trap or engulf someone inside the space. These spaces must be posted and unauthorized entry prohibited.

OSHA requires a number of key procedures be in place *before anyone is permitted to enter such spaces*. The space has to be tested, actions taken to remove hazards, entry teams be provided safety equipment such as respirators, and there must be backup to rescue anyone who runs into difficulty in such a space. For additional information on confined spaces, contact Jim Celenza at <mailto:jobhealth@juno.com> or 751-2015.

Corporate Sponsorship of Earth Day

Submitted by: T. Bisson



The Rhode Island Earth Day Committee, the Department of Environmental Management and Roger Williams Park Zoo have once again teamed up to celebrate the 34th Anniversary of Earth Day — April 22, 2004 — with activities throughout the month of April. Events include community cleanups around the state and special programs throughout Conservation Week, April 12 through April 16 at Roger Williams Park Zoo. The annual Earth Day Festival, on Saturday, April 17,

will take place at Roger Williams Park Zoo 11 am – 4 pm.

Last year, Rhode Island businesses helped make Earth Day an overwhelming success. With their support the Earth Day Committee conducted over 100 neighborhood clean-ups with over 9,300 volunteers in all 39 Rhode Island communities. More than 23,000 visitors came to Roger Williams Park Zoo to celebrate Conservation Week and the Earth Day Festival and learned about environmental issues and stewardship throughout Rhode Island.

Here are just a few ways your business can get involved:

- **Become an Earth Day Sponsor.** Your sponsorship will make it possible to spread the message of environmental awareness, foster participation in community cleanups and support scholarships for students entering environmental studies. The Rhode Island Earth Day Committees offers a variety of sponsorships depending on the level at which your company is able to give. Each sponsorship includes name recognition in education and outreach efforts, appreciation awards and website advertising.
- **Organize a Neighborhood Cleanup.** Many companies find that organizing a cleanup is a good way to show your neighbors that you care about the community and to foster team spirit among employees. DEM provides cleanup bags and gloves to organizations that organize cleanups.
- **Show Off Your Company or Product at the Rhode Island Earth Day Festival.** The Rhode Island Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 17 offers and excellent venue to promote your company's environmental products, programs or stewardship to the thousands of Rhode Islanders who attend

each year. The Festival features environmental exhibits and demonstrations, food, music and good old-fashioned family fun.

If you are interested in aligning your business with a cleaner and greener Rhode Island, please call Terri Bisson at 222-3434, extension 4402 or Jeff Fornaro at 949-2187.

Update for Industrial Stormwater General Permits

Contributed by: Eric Beck



The Department of Environmental Management intends to issue a draft of the new Multi-Sector General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity. This general permit is intended to replace the existing baseline General Permit for Discharges Associated with Industrial Storm Water that expires on March 19, 2004.

The general permit is intended to reduce pollution from industrial facilities with point source discharges of storm water. Facilities are engaged in Industrial Activity if they are defined by one or more of the eleven categories in RIPDES Rule 31b (15). Facilities that have existing coverage under the baseline general permit will be asked to apply for coverage under the new Multi-Sector General Permit. Facilities that were accepted into the EPA Group Application and have not otherwise obtained permit coverage, will be required to apply for coverage under the new Multi-Sector General Permit. The general permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The goal of the SWPPP is to help identify the sources of pollutants in industrial storm water discharge and to ensure practices

are being implemented to minimize pollutants from entering industrial storm water discharge. This plan emphasizes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to provide the necessary flexibility to address different sources of pollutants at different facilities.

DEM plans to hold an informational workshop in the near future to coordinate with existing permittees and facilities that were accepted into the EPA Group Application. The DEM would also like to coordinate with the RI Manufacturers Association and the Northern RI Chamber of Commerce to get information out to facilities that would most likely require coverage under the permit. A mailing will be sent once the date for the workshop is scheduled. After the workshop, the DEM will issue a draft for public comment and hold a Public Hearing. Upon receipt and consideration of public comments, the DEM will then issue a response to comments and finalize the permit. If significant changes are made in response to the comments received, DEM will have another public comment period for the revisions.

Some facilities currently have permit coverage under the existing General Permit that expires March 19, 2004. Coverage under the expired permit will remain in effect until DEM issues the new Multi-Sector General Permit. Operators are required to comply with all applicable terms and conditions of the expired permit. The Multi-Sector General Permit will establish a deadline to submit a new application. If the applicant meets the deadline established in the new permit, permit coverage will remain seamless as facilities transition from the old permit to the new permit.

For additional information contact Margarita Chatterton at 222-4700, extension 7605 or mchatter@dem.state.ri.us

